

Minutes of...Children's Network Policy Council

Details

Date: August 26, 2009

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

Attendees

- Charles Adams, Community Action Partnership
 - Karen Bell, DA Juvenile Division
 - Jennifer Cannady, Juvenile Public Defender
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Norm Dollar, Children and Family Services
 - Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, DBH
 - Cindy Faulkner, First 5 San Bernardino
 - Mary Galvez, Grand Jury
 - Chris Gardner, Juvenile Public Defender
 - Shawn-Marie Green, Grand Jury
 - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
 - Veronica Kelley, DBH
 - Michael Markel, County Counsel
 - Chairman Ovitt, Fourth District Board of Supervisors
 - Allan Rawland, DBH
 - Michelle Scray, Probation Department
 - Honorable Marsha Slough, Juvenile Presiding Judge
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Nancy Swanson, TAD Administration
 - CaSonya Thomas, DBH
 - Kathy Turnbull, Children's Network
 - Greg Zerovnik, SB County Library Administration
 - Kara Hunter, C.A.S.A. of San Bernardino County
 - Donna Howard, Grand Jury
 - Tracy Reece, Juvenile Probation
 - Michael Schertell, DBH
 - Keith Harris, DBH
 - Gary Atkins, DBH
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Welcome and Introductions

Judge Slough welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. **A motion was made to approve the agenda by Linda Haugan and seconded by Michelle Scray. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted by Greg Zerovnik and seconded by Nancy Swanson.**

**Children's
Network
Report**

- Amy remarked that Children's Network staff has been very busy with a variety of activities.
 - The C.A.S.E. (Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation) Training for the Trainers was conducted by staff from the B.S.C.C. (Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition) on August 20th and 21st. The event was well attended by seventy participants. There was some press coverage as well.
 - The CASE committees have identified the need in San Bernardino County for housing and interventional services for these young children.
 - There are plans to develop a one day C.A.S.E. Symposium in January, 2010.
 - Amy reminded the group of the 23rd Annual Children's Network Conference on September 23 and 24, 2009 at the Ontario Convention Center. The two keynote speakers are; Andrew Bridge who wrote "Hopes Boy" and Jeannette Walls who wrote "The Glass Castle".
 - Another very successful event that was just held was the College Fair for Foster and Probation Junior and Senior High School youth. Judge Slough was very pleased with the outcome and thanked the department heads that had staff participating in the event. It was August 8th at the University of Redlands, Orton Center. The representative from the UC University of Merced mentioned that six of the youth present qualified for a full ride scholarship. There will be follow-up by CFS (Children and Family Services) and Probation staff to those youth wanting further information.
 - The working committee for the College Fair for Foster and Probation youth has started working on next years' event.
 - Amy mentioned the Sacramento State/ ICAN Nexus XIV Training conference. There will be some very good workshops at this event on October 21st at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City. She suggested a possibility of a small team from San Bernardino County to go again this year.
 - At the last meeting the sponsorship to support the CASA Munchin at the Mansion event was approved. There will be a table of eight, if interested contact Tammy Williams @ tttwilliams@hss.sbcounty.gov or at 909-383-9657.
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**Children's
Fund Report**

- Rebecca Stafford reported Children's Fund was pleased to assist with funds for the College Fair.
 - Children's Fund supports foster youth through a grant of \$200,000 they use for scholarship awards at; Cal Poly, CSUSB, and some local junior colleges.
 - In July and August they were able to serve 700 families by giving needy children backpacks and lunch bags.
 - Children's Fund has been awarded \$12,000 through an Emergency food and shelter program.
 - Rebecca mentioned that they are coordinating with the Change of Life Foundation through a grant to be able to handle larger requests such as lifts for wheelchairs and/or some basic remodeling to assist children whom may be in a wheelchair.
 - Rebecca mentioned if interested the Children's Fund President's Circle Fall Event on September 26th at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy, 18000 Institution Road, Devore, CA 92407. Please contact her office at (909) 387-4949, if you need further details. It should be a really fun event.
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**Department of
Behavioral
Health Funding
Report Update**

Allan Rawland distributed some materials regarding the budget cuts that affect the programs used by children and their families.

- Allan thanked Chairman Ovitt and Mr. Uffer for helping this county to plan ahead for potential budget cuts.
- For the Prop. 63 this county is working on the last component that is innovations and best practice.
- Since April, 2006 San Bernardino County has been allocated 221 billion dollars through the Prop. 63.
- Allan will do a report for the Board of Supervisors on the Prop. 63 funds.
- One project that is coming to reality is the Building “H” on Gilbert Street, in San Bernardino. To house 14 crisis beds, along with prevention and early intervention services. The capitol campaign for this project is anticipated at 9 million dollars.
- Gary Atkins spoke about the Prop. 36, funds that go for ADS (Alcohol Drug Services). Due to the budget cuts to the State General Fund, there was a 40% cut to ADS programs.
- Gary mentioned that as of July 1st there will be reduction in services, and anticipates further budget reductions. There has been a loss of 250 treatment beds, countywide (especially hard hit has been treatment beds for mothers to bring along their children).
- DBH (Department of Behavioral Health) will be getting some federal funding, (Jack Burns) to be used for criminal justice, drug court services, etc.
- Allan mentioned that the Board of Supervisors has been informed that DBH will be getting a reduction of 4.2 million dollars to treat families and individuals.
- The cuts in Prop. 36 impact the community through Alcohol and Drug programs.
- Allan mentioned they believe there will be a reduction to \$5.5 million dollars for the Mental Health Managed Care. This means that the reduced allocation is no longer sufficient to fund non-emergency, non-psychiatrist outpatient services rendered through the FFS (Fee for Services) network.
- Medi-Cal beneficiaries will be getting notice as of September 1st on the reduction of services.
- There will be an MOU between CFS and DBH so that the 360 to 500 children will not have a disruption in services.
- Allan anticipates there could be waiting lists from 4 to 6 weeks due to the budget cuts.
- Allan stated DBH and CFS continue to partner with matching funding so that the CFS children do not have a lack of service.
- Rick Arden mentioned that the Probation Department is also scheduling meetings with CFS and working on trouble shooting and ways for the children to have continuum of care.
- Sarah Eberhardt-Rios gave her information – (909-421-9458) or seberhardt-rios@dbh.sbcounty.gov can be contacted by providers to assist with special needs requests, etc.

**Other
Announcement**

- Michelle Scray mentioned she just attended a meeting in Los Angeles and is very pleased at how this county collaborates and integrates services for the client's benefit. She is thankful for the Board of Supervisors and CAO in directing Children's Network to coordinate and collaborate to get agencies at the table so the clients have better outcomes.
 - Karen Bell mentioned that Deputy District Attorney IV, Tamara Ross was the staff person to alert Karen about the sexual trafficking of minors especially in the west end. The outcome was to form task forces on a variety of topics to make sure these children could get the most appropriate care available.
 - Charles Adams reminded the group of the Gala that Community Action Partnership is hosting on September 10th.
 - Chairman Ovitt mentioned that through NAACO, national awards system that San Bernardino County took 16 awards recently.
 - Chairman Ovitt anticipates budget cuts from the state could be up to \$188 million dollars. One hundred million dollars would be direct cuts and the \$88 million dollars could be deferred to July 2010.
 - Greg Zerovnik mentioned that the new Phelan Branch Library opened on Saturday and they have been very pleased with the amount of traffic they have gotten.
 - Linda Haugan mentioned in Human Services that everything is going as smooth as possible. CFS at the last minute got a 10% budget cut. The budget cuts were anticipated, so Human Services has been very conservative in filling vacancies. DeAnna Avey-Motikeit, Director of CFS will be able to hire the MSW interns her staff is currently working with. Linda stated she does not have the final budget cuts.
 - Nancy Swanson inquired of Amy Cousineau and Karen Scott to come and do a presentation to her TAD (Transitional Assistance Department) staff in Ontario, so they would know how to handle possible sexual exploitation cases they may come in contact.
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**Public
Comment**

Chairman Ovitt and Michelle Scray mentioned they are hopeful the departments keep working so well together for the best outcome of the client in these challenging budget times.

Next Meeting

*The September meeting is being moved to the 5th Wednesday, **September 30th at noon, County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.***
